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**ACIPENSER FULVESCENS RAFIN-
ESQUE, THE GREAT LAKE
STURGEON.**

The Great Lake Sturgeon has been named many times by Le Sueur, Agassiz, Dumeril and other naturalists, but the earliest name of all those applied to it seems to have been subsequently overlooked. The species is currently known as *Acipenser rubicundus* Le Sueur, 1818, but that name must give place to *Acipenser fulvescens* Rafinesque, proposed in the American Monthly Magazine for August, 1817 (Vol. I, p, 288). The passage may be reprinted:

“A paper, entitled ‘Addition to the Observations on the Sturgeons of North America,’ from Mr. Rafinesque, was read before the Society [Literary and Philosophical Society of New York]. In this Memoir Mr. R. stated severally the discoveries of M. Le Suer, whose new species belong particularly to the genera salmo, cyprinus, silurus, anguilla, bodianus, perca, clupea, &c. Mr. R. gave it as his opinion that the lake sturgeon is a perfectly distinct species, to which the name of accipenser fulvescens could be given, as it is entirely of a dark fulvus color. It reaches six feet in length, has a very obtuse and short snout, a falcated dorsal fin, a smooth skin, five rows of shields; the lateral rows composed of a great number of small shields, upwards of forty, &c.

“The small sturgeon of Lake Erie, according to the author, remains yet to be described. He supposes that several small species may also be found in lakes Michigan, Huron, Superior and Winnipeg, but require the eyes of able observers. ‘I have no doubt,’ says Mr. R. ‘That twenty species, at least, of this genus, inhabit North America, on the east and western lakes and rivers, and that as many dwell in the eastern continent.’”

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